

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A stuffed toy configured to stimulate at least one sense of an animal during play by said animal, said stuffed toy comprising:

a shell formed of a first pliable material;

a pouch formed of a second pliable material and contained within said shell during said play; and

a play-stimulation item wholly contained within said pouch and configured to issue an emission detectable through said pouch and said shell by said at least one sense of said animal.

2. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of said first and second pliable materials is a fabric.

3. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 2 wherein said fabric is an artificial fur.

4. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of said first and second pliable materials is one of a natural fur and an artificial fur.

5. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein:
said shell encloses an interior cavity; and
said pouch is configured to substantially conform to said interior cavity.

6. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

said shell encloses an interior cavity bounded by a perimeter having an opening configured to provide access to said interior cavity; and

said pouch is configured to pass through said opening while said play-stimulation item is contained therein.

7. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 6 wherein:

said pouch is a first pouch;

said play-stimulation item is a first play-stimulation item wholly contained within said first pouch;

said stuffed toy comprises:

a second pouch formed of a third pliable material; and

a second play-stimulation item wholly contained within said second pouch;

said first pouch, having said first play-stimulation item contained therein, is configured to be removed from said shell; and

said second pouch, having said second play-stimulation item contained therein, is configured to be inserted into said shell to replace said first pouch.

8. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein said shell comprises:

a perimeter enclosing an interior cavity, wherein said perimeter has an opening configured to provide access to said interior cavity; and

a fastener configured to releasably seal said opening.

9. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 8 wherein said fastener comprises:

a hook part affixed to said shell upon a first side of said opening; and

a loop part affixed to said shell upon a second part of said opening and configured to engage said hook part.

10. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein;

said shell is a first shell;

said stuffed toy additionally comprises a second shell formed of a third pliable material and contained within said first shell; and

said pouch is contained within said second shell.

11. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 10 wherein one of said first, second, and third pliable materials is a fabric.

12. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 10 wherein one of said first, second, and third pliable materials is one of a natural fur and an artificial fur.

13. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

said play-stimulation item is an olfactory-excitation material; and

said emission is an odor.

14. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

said play-stimulation item is a sound-producing device; and
said emission is a sound.

15. A stuffed toy configured for stimulation of an animal during play by said animal, said stuffed toy comprising:

an outer shell formed of a first pliable material and having a first perimeter;

an inner shell located within said outer shell, formed of a second pliable material, and having a second perimeter configured to enclose an interior cavity within said inner shell;

a first seam partially formed around said first perimeter;

a second seam partially formed around said second perimeter, wherein said first and second seams together define an opening into said interior cavity;

a fastener coupled to one of said outer and inner shells and configured to releasably seal said opening;

a pouch configured to be contained within said interior cavity and formed of a third pliable material; and

a play-stimulation item wholly contained within said pouch and configured to issue an emission detectable through said first, second, and third pliable materials by said animal.

16. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 15 wherein:

said first pliable material is a first fabric;

said second pliable material is a second fabric; and

said third pliable material is a third fabric.

17. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 15 wherein one of said first, second, and third pliable materials is one of a natural or artificial fur.

18. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 15 wherein said fastener is a hook and loop fastener.

19. A stuffed toy as claimed in claim 15 wherein:

said pouch is a first pouch;

said play-stimulation item is a first play-stimulation item;

said stuffed toy additionally comprises:

a second pouch configured to be contained within said
interior cavity; and

a second play-stimulation item contained within said
second pouch;

said first pouch and said first play-stimulation item
contained therein are configured to be removed from said interior
cavity when said first play-stimulation item fails to stimulate
at least one sense of said animal; and

said second pouch and said second play-stimulation item
contained therein are configured to be inserted into said
interior cavity, to replace said first pouch and said first play-
stimulation item contained therein, and to provide stimulation of
at least one sense of said animal.

20. A stuffed toy configured for stimulation of an animal during play by said animal, said stuffed toy comprising:

an outer pliable shell formed of a first fabric, said outer pliable shell having a first perimeter;

an inner pliable shell formed of a second fabric, said inner pliable shell being within said outer pliable shell and having a second perimeter forming an interior cavity within said outer and inner pliable shells;

a plurality of seams partially formed around said first and second perimeters so as to define an opening through said outer and inner pliable shells into said interior cavity;

a hook-and-loop fastener for releasably sealing said opening;

a pouch formed of a third fabric, said pouch being configured to pass through said opening and to be contained within said interior cavity during said play by said animal; and

a play-stimulation item configured to be wholly contained within said pouch during said play, and to provide stimulation for said play by said animal, wherein said play-stimulation item is one of an olfactory-excitation material and a sound-producing device.